

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SECRET
INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Coal Mines

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Shakhti Area (prior to 9 May 1949)

1. The coal pits in the Shakhti (49°43'N, 40°12'E) area are as follows:

- a. Aften, which is the best
- b. Proletariat
- c. Petrovka
- d. Vorovka: only 80 cm. seam
- e. Frunze: 50 minutes march from center of Shakhti.

In the Frunze pit, seven galleries are worked, five by German PWs under Russian foreman, two by Russian civilian forced labor. Three shifts are worked, seven days per week. The average output per gallery per shift is 75 tons; the average daily output of the pit is 1,600 tons. The seams are at a depth of approximately 150 meters and are 1-1.20m high for "Oberkohle" and 35-50 cm. for "Unterkohle". Transport of the coal from the face to the rail cars, which are hand-operated, is carried out by either harrow or stretcher. Conditions of work are bad. The pumps are inadequate; the galleries were knee deep in water from March to May 1947. Safety precautions are bad because of the shortage of pit props. Tools are short. The pit is partly electrified. Comment: the October 1946 production of the "main" pit at Shakhti, which, according to the information above, would be the Aften pit, was 24,000 tons per day.) 50X1-HUM

Tula Area

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2. There are thirty-four coal mines in the Tula area. Of these, mine No. 24 produces both hard coal and brown coal. Its shaft is 50 meters underground. In this mine, three shifts of 8 hours each are worked; 200 PWs and civilian internees on each shift. The mine is very strongly guarded.

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Stalinogorsk Area (June 1945 - December 1947)

3. An unspecified number of mines yielding lignite are situated in the area near Stalinogorsk. four pits were all roughly the same size, and each employed about 600 workers. The depth of the pits is 40-50 meters, and the mining is done by hand only. Coal is transported to the surface by electric elevators. The daily output of each pit is approximately twenty-five rail cars of lignite.

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Artemovsk Area (prior to 20 February 1948)

4. The Artemovsk (Bakmut) coal mine is situated some 10 kms. west of the town in the direction of Konstantinovka. This area is well served by railroads, most of which were rebuilt in the middle of 1946. A double track feeder line runs from Artemovsk to Vorishilovgrad (Lugansk), and the line from Artemovsk to Kramatorsk has been rebuilt and improved. The road network in this area is also good. The mine galleries are some 2 to 3 kms. long, of which the largest is the "Krasni Oktyabr", which is 10 to 15 m. broad and 2km. long. This gallery produces excellent coal, and it can be worked with naked lights. The temperature varies from 35-40 degrees C., and modern machinery is used. Each shift was expected to produce 90-100 tons of coal, which was difficult because of the fact that the coal consisted mostly of compact masses and breaking up was not easy. Three shifts were worked, each of 400 men, mostly PW's under Soviet supervision. Food and working conditions were very poor, and the lack of soap resulted in skin diseases. The name of the Soviet director of the mine was Sasha Dimitri.

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